

\$81 BILLION AID PACKAGE

Disaster relief effort stalls in Senate

Some conservatives say it spends too much, but many Democrats oppose it, claiming it doesn't go far enough

By Jeff Horseman
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Four days before Christmas, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an \$81 billion disaster relief bill to help California wildfire victims and those affected by recent hurricanes.

But the idea of Congress playing Santa Claus to those victim-

ized by 2017 natural disasters died in the Senate, where the bill stalled and won't be acted on until January at the earliest.

This time, it's not just Republicans or Democrats holding up wildfire relief. It's both.

Some conservatives think the bill — the largest single outlay for disaster relief in U.S. history — spends too much, and some Democrats say the bill doesn't

do enough, especially for Puerto Rico.

This year's hurricane season spawned Irma, Harvey and Maria, which ravaged parts of Florida and Texas as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Massive wildfires broke out in Northern California in October and Southern California in December, killing more than 40 people and damaging or destroying thousands of homes. The cost for the October wildfires alone



Walters

stands at \$9.4 billion, according to the state insurance commissioner.

If signed into law, the \$81 billion earmarked in HR4667 — the White House asked for \$44 billion — would bring the amount Congress has spent on disaster relief in 2017 to more than \$130 billion.

Introduced by Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., the bill includes \$27.5 billion for Federal Emergency Management Agency relief efforts. Billions more are

ticketed for community development block grants, infrastructure repairs and small-business loans, among other programs.

The bill also includes language from a separate bill sponsored by Rep. Mimi Walters, R-Laguna Beach, that provides tax relief to those who lost property during the wildfires.

"The need for relief and assistance is immediate," Walters said in a news release. "I am pleased that my bill ... is included in the Emergency Disaster Aid Package

FUNDS » PAGE 6

ROSE PARADE

RIDING HIGH AGAIN



PHOTOS BY JAMES CARBONE

The Mission Inn is about to go mobile as a float marking the inn's 25th anniversary of the Festival of Lights is prepared for Monday's parade. Riverside sponsored a float from 1950 until 1959 and has not had an official presence since.

Riverside rejoins pageantry with first float since 1950s; other area entrants represent 'Ramona' play, Santiago High's band and Donate Life advocacy

By Ryan Hagen and Craig Shultz
Staff writers

Millions of people will tune their televisions to the Rose Parade on New Year's Day and see highlight after highlight from Riverside County.

Among those eagerly awaiting the city of Riverside's entry — the 90th out of 93 entries — will be Gloria Bonokoski.

In 1950, when Bonokoski rode on the city's first entry, none of her friends saw it on TV.

"Very few families had TVs in those days," said Bonokoski, now 84 and still living in Riverside. "The first TV I saw was in 1949."

She said she was 16 when she tried out for the choir on the float, which had the theme of an Easter sunrise service on Mount Rubidoux.

"I was an alto, and there



Kelly Nassiri glues crushed rice onto a macaw that will decorate the Mission Inn-themed float. The work was being done Tuesday in Irwindale.

were four of each (soprano, alto, tenor and bass), plus alternates," she said. "But when we got there, we all squeezed on. There were 20 of us, and it was pretty small."

Riverside sponsored a float from 1950 until 1959, but it has had no official

presence since. Monday's Rose Parade will be the first in a decade with a float sponsored by an Inland city — and the first in nearly 60 years sponsored by Riverside.

The city will be joined by other Inland participants. They will include performers

WATCHING THE PARADE

What: 2018 Rose Parade
When: 8 a.m. Monday
Where: Pasadena
How to watch: The parade will be aired on ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel, RFD TV, HGTV, Univision and KTLA. Channel 5 will air repeats throughout the day.
Tickets: tournamentofroses.com/events

from "Ramona," the iconic Hemet outdoor play about injustice to California Indians in the late 1800s; "the BOSS" or Bands of Santiago Sharks, the marching band of Santiago High School in Corona; and the Donate Life organization's tributes to local organ donors.

"It allows us as a city to share the good things happening in Riverside," said Mayor Rusty Bailey, who will walk beside his city's

PARADE » PAGE 5

STATE LAW

Legality of marijuana does have its limits

In the eyes of the federal government, it's still a controlled substance and subject to enforcement

By Elliot Spagat
The Associated Press

PINE VALLEY » California legalizes marijuana for recreational use Monday, but that won't stop federal agents from seizing the drug — even in tiny amounts — on busy freeways and backcountry highways.

Marijuana possession still will be prohibited at eight Border Patrol checkpoints in California, a reminder that state and federal laws collide when it comes to pot. The U.S. government classifies marijuana as a controlled substance, like heroin and LSD.

"Prior to Jan. 1, it's going to be the same after Jan. 1, because nothing changed on our end," said Ryan Yamasaki, an assistant chief of the Border Patrol's San Diego sector. "If you're a federal

POT » PAGE 4

DISNEYLAND

It's a long, long wait when the power goes out

By Marla Jo Fisher
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A jam-packed Disneyland closed its gates to new arrivals for four hours Wednesday after a blown transformer knocked out power to large sections of Fantasyland and Toontown.

It's hard to imagine a worse time for a power outage at the park, on one of the busiest days of the year, with both football teams playing in the Rose Bowl visiting the resort, along with groups in town for the holidays.

Power went out around 11 a.m. in Fantasyland and Mickey's Toontown, and riders had to be escorted off the "It's a Small

OUTAGE » PAGE 9



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